

In the claims:

1. (cancelled)

2. (previously presented) A first access point operable to provide wireless network access to client devices coupled to a wireless network, the first access point comprising:

a receiver operable to detect a signal from a second access point, distinguish that signal from other signals, and measure strength of the signal; and

an indicator operable to provide an external indication of the signal strength directly from the first access point to a human being, the indication being perceivable by the human being and also being indicative of the signal strength of the second access point,

whereby proximity of the second access point relative to the first access point can be estimated by the human being directly from reference to the first access point without knowing the precise geographic location of the second access point.

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) An access point operable to provide wireless network access to client devices coupled to a wireless network, the access point comprising:

a controller that automatically chooses one of a plurality of radio frequencies on which to operate, said controller choosing said frequency after evaluating frequencies on which other access points operate, said controller comprising:

- a. logic for picking a frequency;
- b. logic for transmitting on said frequency;
- c. logic for receiving on said frequency;
- d. logic for evaluating whether other access points are heard on said frequency;
- e. logic for reducing transmission power;
- f. logic for evaluating whether said other access points are still heard on said frequency;
- g. logic for storing the transmission power at which no other access points are heard;
- h. logic for picking a next frequency as the frequency and repeating steps b-g until all of the plurality of frequencies has been picked;
- i. logic for comparing said stored transmission powers;
- j. logic for choosing for operation the frequency associated with the highest stored transmission power.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A method executed by a first access point for facilitating deployment of the first access point comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of signals;  
distinguishing, in the plurality of signals, a signal from a second access point;  
determining a signal strength of the signal from the second access point; and  
providing on the access point an external indication of the signal strength that is perceptible by a human being, the external indication provided directly from the first access point to the human being,

whereby the first access point's proximity relative to the second access point can be estimated by the human being directly from reference to the first access point without knowing the precise geographic location of the second access point.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A method comprising the steps of:

providing an access point operable to provide wireless network access to client devices coupled to a wireless network;

automatically choosing by the access point one of a plurality of radio frequencies on which to operate, after evaluating frequencies on which other access points operate,

wherein the step of automatically choosing comprises the steps of:

- a. picking a frequency;
- b. transmitting on said frequency;
- c. receiving on said frequency;
- d. evaluating whether other access points are heard on said frequency;
- e. reducing transmission power;
- f. evaluating whether said other access points are still heard on said frequency;
- g. storing the transmission power at which no other access points are heard;
- h. picking a next frequency as the frequency and repeating steps b-g until all of the plurality of frequencies has been picked;
- i. comparing said stored transmission powers;
- j. choosing for operation the frequency associated with the highest stored transmission power.

15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) A program product for execution by a first wireless device comprising a computer readable medium having embodied therein a computer program for storing data, the computer program comprising:

logic operable to detect a signal from a second wireless device, distinguish that signal from other signals, and measure strength of the signal; and

logic for causing a human-perceptible external indication of the signal strength, the external indication provided directly from the first wireless device to the human being,

whereby the relative proximity of the second wireless device can be estimated by the human being directly from reference to the first wireless device without knowing the precise geographic location of the second wireless device.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) A program product comprising a computer readable medium having embodied therein a computer program for storing data, the computer program comprising:

logic for operation in an access point, the access point operable to provide wireless network access to client devices coupled to a wireless network, the logic for automatically choosing one of a plurality of radio frequencies on which to operate, the logic choosing said frequency after evaluating frequencies on which other access points operate, the logic comprising:

- a. logic for picking a frequency;
- b. logic for transmitting on said frequency;
- c. logic for receiving on said frequency;

- d. logic for evaluating whether other access points are heard on said frequency;
- e. logic for reducing transmission power;
- f. logic for evaluating whether said other access points are still heard on said frequency;
- g. logic for storing the transmission power at which no other access points are heard;
- h. logic for picking a next frequency as the frequency and repeating steps b-g until all of the plurality of frequencies has been picked;
- i. logic for comparing said stored transmission powers;
- j. logic for choosing for operation the frequency associated with the highest stored transmission power.